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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,442	10/14/2003	Ramin Rezaiifar	030014	6871
23596 7590 08/18/2008 QUALCOMM INCORPORATED 5775 MOREHOUSE DR. SAN DIEGO, CA 92121				
EXAMINER				
CHOU, ALBERT T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2616				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/686,442

Applicant(s)

REZAIIFAR ET AL.

Examiner

ALBERT T. CHOU

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2008 for RCE.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-103 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-103 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CIS)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment (RCE)

1. Applicant's amendment filed on July 14, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1-17 have been canceled. Claims 18-103 have been added. Claims 18-103 are pending in this application, with claims 18, 37-40, 59 and 80-83 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 38 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to "A software module", which is considerable non-statutory subject matter.

Computer programs claimed, or "software modules" as Applicants claimed, as computer listings per se, i.e., the descriptions or expressions of the programs, are not physical "things". They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not "acts" being performed. In contrast, a claimed computer readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.

See pages 52-53 of USPTO "Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 37-41, 43, 44, 46, 59-62, 64, 65, 67, 80-86, 88, 89 and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,963,582 to Xu. Since RFC 2002 and RFC 1701 are incorporated in Xu by references [col. 1, lines 46-50; col. 2; lines 26-36], Examiner considers these RFCs are formed as parts of Xu's disclosures.

Regarding claims 18 and 37-40, Xu teaches a method, an apparatus, a processor and a computer-readable medium storing computer instructions executed, of transferring data in a communication system [Figs. 1-7], comprising:

receiving a plurality of registration requests from a radio access network (RAN) node, wherein each registration request identifies a corresponding mobile node [Figs.

1-2; The PSDN 28 receives a Mobile Node 20 registration request relayed from RN 24; col. 7, lines 34-43];

receiving a plurality of data packets, wherein each of the plurality of data packets is destined for a respective mobile node and corresponds to a respective data packet treatment **[Figs. 1-2; PDSN 28 receives data packets destined for the Mobile Node 20 from Home IP Network 32. The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCR supporting QoS for each user data tunneling; col. 3, lines 8-26; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002];**

establishing a plurality of tunnels with the RAN node for each respective mobile node **[Figs. 1-2; PDSN 28 receives registration requests and responds by returning registration replies to establish tunnels between RN 24 and PDSN 28 for respective mobile nodes; col. 5, line 45 – col. 6, line 9; col. 7, lines 34-48],** wherein each of the plurality of tunnels corresponds to a respective data packet treatment **[Figs. 1-2; The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCF supporting QoS for each user data tunneling; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002];** wherein a number of the plurality of tunnels is independent of a number of air-interface links between the RAN node and the respective mobile node **[Figs. 1-2; Each Mobile Node 20A-20C has more than one call connections but needs only one air link 22 between RN 24 and Mobile Node 20; col. 5, line 60 – col. 6, line 9 & RFC 2002];** and

transmitting each of the plurality of data packets over a respective one of the plurality of tunnels according to the respective data packet **[Figs. 1-2; PSDN 28 transmits data packets from Home IP Network 32 to Mobile Node 20. The R-P**

Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCR supporting QoS for user data tunneling; col. 3, lines 8-26; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002].

Regarding claims 19, 41, 62 and 86 Xu teaches enabling the RAN node to reorder respective data packets in different tunnels **[Figs. 1-2; If packets arriving at the RN or RDSN lose their sequencing across the R-P network, the receiving entity may attempt to re-sequence the packet before delivery to the PPP layer; col. 10, lines 23-31]** to coexist with an absence of data packet reordering within each individual tunnel **[Figs. 3-4; the Sequence Number Present bit is set to 1, indicating that the Sequence Number field is present. Otherwise, the Sequence Number field is not present in the GRE header 96. i.e. the absence of data packet reordering; col. 9, lines 2-33].**

Regarding claims 21, 43, 64 and 88, Xu teaches each of the plurality of tunnels having a different at least one tunnel attribute corresponding to a different one of the respective data packet treatments **[Figs. 1-2; The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCF supporting QoS for each user data tunneling; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002].**

Regarding claims 22, 44, 65 and 89, Xu teaches the establishing is in response to the receiving of a respective one of the plurality of data packets having a respective data packet treatment **[Figs. 1-2; The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control**

Function PCF supporting QoS for each user data tunneling; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002].

Regarding claims 24, 46, 67 and 91, Xu teaches the number of the plurality of tunnels is greater than the number of the air-interface links **[Figs. 1-2; Each Mobile Node 20A-20C has more than one call connections but needs only one air link 22 between RN 24 and Mobile Node 20; col. 5, line 60 – col. 6, line 9 & RFC 2002].**

Regarding claims 59 and 80-83, Xu teaches a method, an apparatus, a processor and a computer-readable medium storing computer instructions executed, of transferring data in a communication system **[Figs. 1-2], comprising:**

transmitting a plurality of registration requests from a radio access network (RAN) node to a network access node, wherein each registration request identifies a corresponding mobile node **[Figs. 1-2; A Mobile Node 20 sends a registration request to RN 24 which processes the request and then relays it to PSDN 28; col. 7, lines 36-43];**

receiving information from the network access node to establish a plurality of tunnels between the network access node and the RAN node for each respective mobile node **[Figs. 1-2; RN 24 receives registration reply messages to establish tunnels between RN 24 and PDSN 28 for respective mobile nodes; col. 5, line 45 – col. 6, line 9; col. 7, lines 34-48],** wherein each of the plurality of tunnels corresponds to a respective data packet treatment corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of

data packets received by the network access node [Figs. 1-2; The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCR supporting QoS for user data tunneling established between RN 24 and PDSN 28; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002], wherein each of the plurality of data packets received by the network access node is destined for a respective mobile node and comprises a respective data packet treatment [Figs. 1-2; RN 24 receives data packets destined for the Mobile Node 20 from PDSN 28. The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCR supporting QoS for user data tunneling; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002], wherein a number of the plurality of tunnels is independent of a number of the air-link interfaces between the RAN node and the respective mobile node [Figs. 1-2; Each Mobile Node 20A-20C has more than one call connections but needs only one air link 22 between RN 24 and Mobile Node 20; col. 5, line 60 – col. 6, line 9 & RFC 2002]; and

receiving each of the plurality of data packets over a respective one of the plurality of tunnels according to the respective data packet treatment [Figs. 1-2; RN 24 receives data packets destined to Mobile Node 20 from PDSN 28. The R-P Interface 26 provides Packet Control Function PCR supporting QoS for user data tunneling; col. 3, lines 8-26; col. 3, line 39 – col. 4, line 12 & RFC 2002].

Regarding claims 60 and 40, Xu teaches forwarding each respective one of the plurality of data packets to the corresponding mobile node [Figs. 1-2; RN 24 forwards data packets destined to Mobile Node 20 via Air Link 22].

Regarding claims 61 and 85, Xu teaches establishing the number of air- interface links between the RAN node and each respective mobile node, wherein the forwarding further comprises forwarding via a respective air-interface link **[Figs. 1-2; Air Interface/Air Link 22; col. 3, lines 27-60]**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20, 23, 25, 26, 35, 36, 42, 45, 47, 48, 57, 58, 63, 66, 68, 69, 78, 79, 87, 90, 92, 93, 102 and 103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,963,582 to Xu in view of by US Patent No. 7,072,336 to Barany et al. (hereinafter "Barany"). Since RFC 2002 and RFC 1701 are incorporated in Xu by references **[col. 1, lines 46-50; col. 2; lines 26-36]**, Examiner considers these RFCs are formed as parts of Xu's disclosures.

Regarding claims 20, 25, 26, 42, 47, 48, 63, 68, 69, 87, 92 and 93, Xu does not expressly teach establishing further comprises indicating to the RAN node whether or

not the respective data packets carried by the respective tunnel can be dropped; each respective data packet treatment comprises signaling information comprising at least one of a Differentiated Service Code Point (DSCP) marking and translating each respective signaling information into a respective code point value understood by the RAN node.

Barany teaches a communication network includes a wireless communication system 11 coupled to a packet-based data network 24 [Figs. 1, 2 & 4; col. 3, lines 9-34]. Barany teaches a message flow for establishing a communication session between a mobile node and the packet-based data network 24 [Figs. 1, 2 & 4; col. 8, line 45 – col. 9, line 8] indicating to the RAN node whether or not the respective data packets carried by the respective tunnel can be dropped [Figs. 1, 2 & 4; DSCP maps to a specific PHB of routers. PHB denotes a combination of forwarding, classification, scheduling, and dropping behaviors applied to a behavior aggregate (BA) at each hop; col. 7, lines 26-46, col. 8, line 45 – col. 9, line 8]; each respective data packet treatment comprises signaling information comprising at least one of a Differentiated Service Code Point (DSCP) marking [Figs. 1, 2 & 4; One field of an IP header is a DS field. The DS field is assigned a Diff-Serv code point DSCP; col. 7, lines 26-46] and translating each respective signaling information into a respective code point value understood by the RAN node [Figs. 1, 2 & 4; Application 124 (Fig. 20) in each user devices 100 sets a DSCP value in the DS field of an IP packet; col. 7, lines 26-46].

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Differential Service information in the IP header, as disclosed by Barany, into Xu's invention as a QoS indicator for each of IP data packets exchanged between RN 24 and PDSN 28.

The motivation for combining the reference teachings would be to enable RN 24 and PSDN 28 to assign each data packet with a DS Code Point, which maps to a specific per-hop behavior PHB of nodes (such as RN 24 and PSDN 28) that are part of the path along which the packet is transmitted so that a combination of forwarding, classification, scheduling, and drop behaviors can be applied to a behavior aggregate at each hop that is a DS-compliant node.

Regarding claims 23, 45, 66 and 90, Xu, in view of Barany, teaches the method, wherein the establishing further comprises: enabling the RAN node to reorder respective data packets in different tunnels to coexist with an absence of data packet reordering within each individual tunnel **[see rejection statement to claim 19]**; indicating to the RAN node whether or not the respective data packets carried by the respective tunnel can be dropped **[see rejection statement to claim 20]**; and wherein each of the plurality of tunnels comprises a different at least one tunnel attribute corresponding to a different one of the respective data packet treatments **[see rejection statement to claim 21]**.

Regarding claims 35, 36, 57, 58, 78, 79, 102 and 103, Xu, in view of Barany, teaches each respective data packet treatment comprises signaling information comprising at least one of a Differentiated Service Code Point (DSCP) marking **[see rejection statement to claim 25]**, wherein establishing further comprises translating each respective signaling information into a respective code point value understood by the RAN node **[see rejection statement to claim 26]**.

Xu does not expressly teach comprising receiving a back-pressure message from the RAN node, wherein the back- pressure message corresponds to a respective one of the plurality of tunnels and wherein the back-pressure message is based on a respective code point corresponding to the respective one of the plurality of tunnels.

Barany teaches comprising receiving a back-pressure message from the RAN node, wherein the back- pressure message corresponds to a respective one of the plurality of tunnels **[e.g. receiving an IP packet from the RAN 18 with a DSCP value assigned in the DS field in the IP header. PHB denotes a combination of classification, scheduling, forwarding, and drop behaviors (i.e. a flow control mechanism to start/stop/drop data packets) applied to a behavior aggregate at each hop/node; col. 7, lines 25-46]** and wherein the back-pressure message is based on a respective code point corresponding to the respective one of the plurality of tunnels **[The DS field is assigned a DS code point (DSCP), which maps to a specific PHB of nodes. col. 7, lines 25-46]**

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the differentiated services, DSCP and PHB functions of nodes as disclosed by Barany into RN 24 and PSDN 28 of Xu.

The motivation for combining the reference teachings would be to enable RN 24 and PSDN 28 to assign each data packet with a DS Code Point, which maps to a specific per-hop behavior PHB of nodes (such as RN 24 and PSDN 28) that are part of the path along which the packet is transmitted so that a combination of forwarding, classification, scheduling, and drop behaviors can be applied to a behavior aggregate at each hop that is a DS-compliant node.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 27-34, 49-56, 70-77 and 94-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,963,582 to Xu in view of by US Patent No. 6,522,880 to Verma et al. (hereinafter "Verma") Since RFC 2002 and RFC 1701 are incorporated in Xu by references [col. 1, lines 46-50; col. 2; lines 26-36], Examiner considers these RFCs are formed as parts of Xu's disclosures.

Regarding claims 27, 49, 70 and 94, Xu teaches receiving the plurality of registration requests further comprises receiving a respective routing key with each registration request wherein each respective routing key is generated by the RAN node **[Figs. 3-4; col. 7, lines 36-48, col. 8, line 51- col. 10, line 2]**.

Xu does not expressly teach the routing key comprises a first field and a second field, wherein the first field identifies the respective corresponding mobile node, wherein the second field is reserved for indicating a tunnel identifier, wherein the routing key further comprises a variable set by the RAN node to variably allocate resources between a plurality of mobile nodes and a respective plurality of tunnels.

Verma teaches the routing key comprises a first field and a second field, wherein the first field identifies the respective corresponding mobile node **[Figs. 1-2; Mobile Identification Number MIN; col. 2, lines 21-27; MIN, Tunnel ID; col. 9, lines 30-53]**, wherein the second field is reserved for indicating a tunnel identifier **[Fig. 2, step 112; assigns a tunnel ID value; col. 3, lines 50-59]**.

Xu, in view of Barany, does not expressly teach the routing key further comprises a variable set by the RAN node to variably allocate resources between a plurality of mobile nodes and a respective plurality of tunnels.

However, Xu uses a modified GRE signaling to eliminate the necessity of a separate tunnel ID and session ID (i.e. Mobile ID) to improve the mobility management **[col. 10, lines 52-65]**. Since RFC 1701 only defines Key (optional) field contains a four octet number which was inserted by the encapsulator and indicates that the key field may be used by the receiver to authenticate source of the packet **[RFC 1701, page 3]**,

Thus, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that the arrangement of maintaining a separate mobile ID, a tunnel ID and/or a variable boundary between IDs, as used in other protocols (such as in Verma and the instance application) is simply a design choice or a pure manipulation of routing key data structure. Therefore, the inclusion of "*a variable set by the RAN node to variably allocate resources between a plurality of mobile nodes and a respective plurality of tunnels*" does not depart from the scope of Xu's, in view of Verma, invention.

Regarding claims 28, 50, 71 and 95, Xu, in view of Verma, teaches the variable set by the RAN node to variably allocate resources is based on at least one of historical usage of mobile nodes, or available data services **[See rejection statement to claim 27]**.

Regarding claims 29, 51, 72 and 96, Xu, in view of Verma, teaches the variable comprises a field length of the routing key or a variable alternate field **[See rejection statement to claim 27]**.

Regarding claims 30, 52, 73 and 97, Xu, in view of Verma, teaches the variable comprises the first field and the second field each having a variable field length **[See rejection statement to claim 27]**.

Regarding claims 31, 53, 74 and 98, Xu, in view of Verma, teaches establishing the plurality of tunnels with the RAN node for each respective mobile node further comprises generating a tunnel identifier according to the second field **[See rejection statement to claim 27]**.

Regarding claims 32, 54, 75 and 99, Xu teaches receiving the plurality of registration requests further comprises receiving a respective Generic Routing Encapsulation (GRE) key with each registration request, wherein each GRE key is generated by the RAN node **[Figs. 3-4; col. 7, lines 36-48, col. 8, line 51- col. 10, line 2]**.

Xu does not expressly teach each GRE key comprises a packet service identifier (PSI) field and a tunnel identifier (MTID) field, wherein the PSI field identifies the respective corresponding mobile node, and wherein the MTID field identifies a value corresponding to an available number of tunnels that may be established.

Verma teaches each registration request comprises a packet service identifier (PSI) field **[Figs. 1-2; Mobile Identification Number MIN; col. 2, lines 21-27; MIN, Tunnel ID; col. 9, lines 30-53]** and a tunnel identifier (MTID) field **[Fig. 2, step 112; assigns a tunnel ID value; col. 3, lines 50-59]**, wherein the PSI field identifies the respective corresponding mobile node **[Figs. 1-2, 6, step 412; Mobile Identification Number MIN; col. 2, lines 21-27; MIN, Tunnel ID; col. 9, lines 30-53]**, and wherein the MTID field identifies a value corresponding to an available number of tunnels that

may be established **[Fig. 2, steps 112-118; use tunnel ID value assigned for establishing tunnel connection 56; col. 3, line 60 – col. 4, line 7].**

Though Xu uses a modified GRE signaling to eliminate the necessity of a separate tunnel ID and session ID (i.e. Mobile ID) to improve the mobility management **[col. 10, lines 52-65]**, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to recognize that the arrangement of maintaining a separate mobile ID and a tunnel ID as used in other protocols (such as in Verma and the instance application) is simply a design choice and does not depart from the scope of Xu's, in view of Verma, invention.

Regarding claims 33, 55, 76 and 100, Xu, in view of Verma, teaches generating a tunnel identifier corresponding to one of the available number of tunnels **[Verama: Fig. 2, step 112; assigns a tunnel ID value; col. 3, lines 50-59].**

Regarding claims 34, 56, 77 and 101, Xu, in view of Verma, teaches receiving a respective GRE header comprising the GRE key and a sequence number corresponding to a sequence space **[Xu: Figs. 3-4; GRE Header 96, Sequence Number; col. 8, line 44 – col. 9, line 33]**, wherein each of the plurality of tunnels have different respective sequence spaces **[Xu: Figs. 3-4; GRE Header 96, Sequence Number per session; col. 8, line 44 – col. 9, line 33].**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert T. Chou whose telephone number is 571-272-6045. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi H. Pham, can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Albert T Chou/
Examiner, Art Unit 2616

August 12, 2008